

REMARKS

Claims 81-116 are pending in the present application. Claims 67-116 were examined. Claims 67-80 have been cancelled by amendment.

In the office action mailed April 25, 2006 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner rejected claims 67-80 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,950,956 to Zerbe *et al.* (the "Zerbe patent"). Claims 81-116 have been allowed.

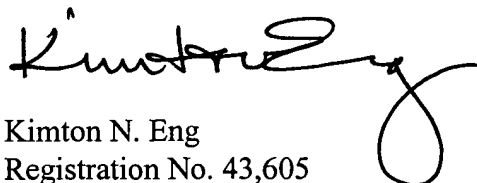
Information disclosure statements were submitted on October 14, 2003 and April 12, 2006. Applicants request the Examiner consider the references cited in each Form PTO-1449 of the Information Disclosure Statements and provide the attorney of record with a signed and initialed copy of each Form PTO-1449.

As previously mentioned, claims 67-80 have been cancelled. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 67-80 have been cancelled to expedite the issuance of allowable subject matter into a patent. The cancellation of claims 67-80, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the cancelled claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicants have forfeited the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:
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